Deaths due to Unsafe Abortions

*404. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of abortions has took place during the last three years and how many women died due to unsafe abortions;

(b) whether Government have taken steps for a greater emphasis on services for young people to stem the rising incidence of unplanned adolescent pregnancy, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any special attention for improving the condition of the marginalised and under-privileged; if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government for striving towards equality of sexes; and

(e) what steps have been taken for better quality services that offer a wide choice of contraceptive methods in an appropiate cultural context ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) The total number of Medical Termination of Pregnancies reported during the last three years in approved institutions is 18,10,098. Information on deaths due to unsafe abortions is not available.

(b) The steps taken include active promotion of contraceptives among younger age couples, giving financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of safe abortion facilities, strengthening the diagnostic and treatment facilities for sexually transmitted and creating awareness about risks associated with unsafe sexual behaviour.

(c) Services for all sections of society are available at centres, PHCs and other health institutions.

(b) Various legislative measures have been taken to provide protection to women against social discrimination, violence and atrocities Development programmes for their education, training, employment and income generation are being implemented.

(e) A range of contraceptives is being made available according to the need/ requirement of individual acceptors. The quality of services is continuously improved through training, counselling and follow up.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Delhi Declaration of International Planned Parenthood Federation on 28th October, 1992 gave a package of family programming. sex, health and reproductive care for women ? If so, what are the details of the package ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, the hon. Member is right about the Delhi Declaration. The main objective of the Delhi Declaration was to control ever-increasing population on the one side and to give protection to the health of the mothers and the children. This Declaration referred particularly to the MTP and illegal abortions in the country. If the hon. Member wants to know more about it, I will be able to give it to him.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Sir, my question has not been answered. What are the details of the package given by the Delhi Declaration ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will be able to give you the answer later. It does not strictly fall within this question.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Sir, may I know from the Minister what the major goals set by the meeting at Delhi are ? Will the Minister give us the details ? May I know from the Minister whether the Government have accepted the package and the goals or not

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, at the moment, I do not have the particulars of the Delhi Declaration. I will collect them and pass them on to the hon. Member.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Sir, my question has not been answered at all. If the Minister wants to know the goals set by the Delhi Declaration, I can give it to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give it but this question is not about the Delhi Declaration.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : It is all connected with that.

Whatever information has been given by the Minister in his reply, actually reflects a little bit on it. So this is all related to that question. I think it has not been studied by the hon. Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am very sorry to say that the hon. Member himself has not understood the question which he has put. He has asked about abortions in the country.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Yes, the Delhi Declaration discussed about the question of abortions. It discussed nothing else but abortions. How can you avoid that question ? What else could this Delhi Declaration decide in this context ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Was there anything about abortions in this Declaration or was it an aborted declaration ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have given a lengthy answer to his question.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : The hon. Minister has not read about the Delhi Declaration. How can he reply to his question ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Regarding abortions, I have given a very lengthy answer to his question. I do not think that this question arises.

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : It involves that particular matter. The Minister is just avoiding that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, you got a full answer about the abortions. So let us not enlarge it.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to put a very simple supplementary question. The hon. Minister would agree with me that the major reason for women being at the receiving end is illiteracy. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has devised a scheme, fully funded by the Government of India to provide compulsory free education to girls up to matric level at least.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the hon. Member's question does not fall within the main question. But he is right in asking this question because it is education that matters in controlling the ever-increasing population. The examples of the State of Kerala and the State of Tamil Nadu are very clear.

The literacy percentage is so high there and they have controlled the rise in population. The literacy percentage is very high there.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Sir, I have not asked about the literacy percentage in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. I want to know whether the Centre is having any special scheme.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Government has taken up programmes for education of the rural masses. There are certain projects and proposals which are being implemented by the Education Ministry.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Sir, it is a fact that family planning is a serious matter so far as our nation is concerned. Is the hon. Minister aware—I hope he is—that a new pill called 'RU 486' has been invented ? Its efficacy has been proved and it is a substitute for surgery for abortion. It is being used in Europe and in China very extensively. China has also manufactured its own prototype of RU 486. I hope the hon. Minister will recall that I had drawn his attention to this, but received only a proforma-reply. Why is it that the Government is hesitant in introducing this quickly and immediately ?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir. this system is under the study of the ICMR. They are conducting examinations. After the satisfactory completion of the examinations, the Government will take a decision on the implementation of this.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : When was this issue referred to them and how much longer will they take ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This subject is under the study of the ICMR. Trials are on. Unless we know that it is safe to resort to this pill, perhaps, we will not be able to take it up for implementation.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, even if it has been decided upon in China. we have to ... (*Interruption*).

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Sir, the point is different. The point is that in India, the population increases every minute and the hon. Minister takes a very casual attitude. I am asking a specific question. When was the issue referred to the ICMR ? How many meetings have they held ? And, when are they expected to come to a conclusion ? The whole world has already concluded that it is a safe device.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can appreciate the hon. Member's concern about the rising population. But I can assure the hon. Member and the House that we are not casual in these matters. If the hon. Member is only concerned about the date when it was referred to them, I will get it and inform the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Sir. the answer of the Minister to the question is not very clear. If you go through the question, part (b) of it is about unplanned adolescent pregnancy, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases, etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special measure is being taken to control and eradicate these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The diseases ?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Yes, the diseases, uplanned adolescent pregnancy and the whole of it.

Is the Government having any special scheme for this ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Scheme for ?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Scheme for controlling unplanned adolescent pregnancy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not exactly about abortion. but the beginning of it, unplanned parenthood. Is there any action to prevent that ?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, there are some projects with the Government for family planning. There are an estimated 148.4 billion married couples in the age-group of 15-45 years. Of these, 54 per cent are in the age-group of 15-29 years. These younger couples do not favour terminal methods. And, the Government is taking all steps to encourage the spacing method among the younger couples of this country.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : What do you mean by 'all steps' ? Can you enumerate the steps ?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : In all the PHECs and the other outlets of the Health Department, they are providing all contraceptive implements, pills, contraceptives, condoms, IUCD to these younger couple. They are made available to these younger couples through the channels of the Health Department. There is counselling also and there are family planning workers who can guide. They are also giving all information to the younger couples and encouraging them to adopt all these methods.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, जहां तक ग्रापरेशन का और फैमिली प्लानिंग ग्रापरेशन का ताल्लुक है तो कुछ मजहबों में इसके बारे में, कुछ धर्मों में, इसके बारे में वर्जित है, लेकिन जहां तक पिल्ज़ यूज़

करने का है तो वह बहुत से इस्लामिक कंट्रीज और क्रिश्चियन कंट्रीज ने इसको एडाप्ट कर लिया है। इस लिहाज से मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मंत्री महोदय उन धार्मिक नेताओं से बात चीत करेंगे, जिनके धर्म में इसके बारे में मुमानियत है, कि पिल्ज का इस्तेमाल वे लोग भी कहें कि होना चाहिए? क्या इस के संबंध में आप उन से बात-चीत करेंगे और क्या कोई रास्ता इस के लिए निकालेंगे?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I can only say that this is a suggestion for action.

*405. [*The Questioner (SHRI Dilip Singh Jadev) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* infra.]

Guidelines regarding behaviour of Police with the Legislators

*406. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any detailed guidelines to State Governments etc. for dealings (i) between the Administration and Legislators and (ii) police and Legislators in consistance with the dignity of Members of legislatures to avoid complaints;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines and whether Government would lay a copy of it on the Table of the House;

(c) to what extent these guidelines have been followed by the Police and paramilitary forces in dealing with the Members of Parliament and State Legislatures during the recent BJP Rally held in New Delhi on February 25, 1993 and what are the details in this regard; and

(d) the names of police officials who have been found guilty of misbehaviour or using excessive force while dealing with the Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have issued instructions about observance of proper procedure in official dealings between the Administration (including the police) and Members of Parliament and of the Houses of State Legislatures. The instructions inter-alia provide that;

(i) government servants should show courtesy and consideration to the Members; and

(ii) While they should consider carefully or listen patiently to what the Members may have to say, they should always act according to their own best judgement.

A copy of the communication containing of the instructions on the subject is attached as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) Though the aforesaid guidelines do not cover dealings of the police with Member of Parliament and of the Houses of State Legislatures when they become members of an unlawful assembly, as was the case in Delhi on 25 February, 1993, the police behaved with utmost restraint, requisite tact, and courtesy and used minimum force while dealing with the unlawful assembly at various places in Delhi.

(d) No police official has been found guilty of misbehaviour or of use of excessive force while dealing with the Members of Parliament on 25 February 1993 in Delhi.

Statement

No. 11013/2/92-Estt.(A)

Government of India

Ministry of Personnel, P. G. & Pensions

(Department of Personnel & Training)

New Delhi, the 21st December 92

SUBJECT : *Official dealings between the Administration and Members*

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Viren J. Shah.